IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicant hereby elects the species of Group I consisting of Figure 19 for initial examination. Claim 1 is generic to all of the species. Claims 1-13 are hereby elected and are readable on the elected species. This election is with traverse.

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-16 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has set forth an election of species requirement with regard to the present application. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

SPECIES	FIGURES	CLAIMS
I	19	1-13
II	21	1 and 14
III	22	1 and 15
IV	23	1 and 16

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicant has elected the species of Group I for initial examination. Applicant hereby elects claims 1-13 for initial examination. The Examiner is respectfully requested to act on the elected claims.

The provisions of 37 CFR 1.146 state that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains four species. If the Examiner considers the

subject matter of generic claim 1 as being allowable, then all of the claims should be allowable in

view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, claims 1-13

have been initially elected. If the Examiner does persist in his election of species requirement,

Applicants reserves the right to file divisional applications directed to non-elected species at a later

date if they so desire.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The Examiner is respectfully requested to recognize the Applicant's claim for foreign

priority in the next Office Action.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is

respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the

Examiner has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the

undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is

believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Examiner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure

Statement filed on February 5, 2004. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 should be sent to the

undersigned at the earliest convenience of the Examiner.
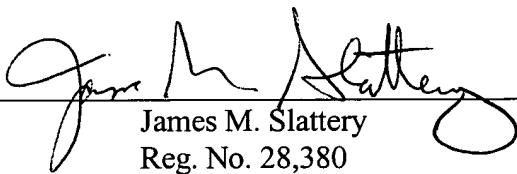
Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to

Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By _____
                        James M. Slattery
                        Reg. No. 28,380

JMS/mmi

(703) 205-8000

0080-0227P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT(S) FILED AT THE U.S.P.T.O.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the correspondence indicated on the attached photocopy of the postcard receipt was reviewed and found to be in proper order for filing in the U.S.P.T.O. by

Certificate of Mailing Procedures (This correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231; on the below indicated date.)

Hand Carry to the U.S.P.T.O. mailroom by **BSKB COURIER** on the below indicated date.

Telefaxed to the U.S.P.T.O. on the below indicated date in accordance with the procedures for faxing documents to the U.S.P.T.O. Upon successful transmission to the U.S.P.T.O., a copy of the facsimile Transaction Report will be attached herewith.

Signed: *Linda Ruff*   Date: *May 5, 2005*

(Rev. 09/23/01)